

### REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 24, 2005, has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks are made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claims 1-8 stand rejected. Claims 9-20 have been canceled.

The rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Salvo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,341,271) "Salvo" is respectfully traversed.

Salvo describes an inventory management system automatically monitors inventory amounts, provides information concerning inventory, and decides if an order for replacement inventory should be placed. The system includes a storage for inventory, an indicator for monitoring and reporting the level of current inventory, and a controller for receiving information from different inventory suppliers and for integrating such information with information on current inventory amounts and estimated future use to decide if an order for replacing inventory should be made. An order is placed automatically to a supplier and the progress for the delivery of replacement inventory is automatically monitored.

Claim 1 recites a web-based supply chain system for improving business productivity including "a server configured with a database of business information, said server further configured with a plurality of user interfaces associated with business transactional applications, said server further configured for allowing a user to access and retrieve said business transactional applications, said at least one business transactional application including a web page configured to provide access for a plurality of users internal to a business entity and to users external to the business entity to access data concerning non-conformances that occur during at least one of an assembly and test stage and a component manufacturing stage of a supply chain process ...at least one computer...a network coupling said at least one computer to said server."

Salvo does not describe nor suggest a web-based supply chain system as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, Salvo does not describe nor suggest at least one business transactional application including a web page configured to provide access for a plurality of users internal to a business entity and to users external to the business entity to access data concerning non-conformances that occur during at least one of an assembly and test stage or a component

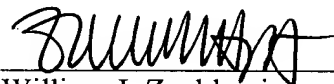
manufacturing stage. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Salvo describes a system for managing inventory that includes automatically gathering information about the current inventory and deciding whether and when replacement inventory should be ordered. As such, Salvo does not describe nor suggest all of the claimed elements of the present invention. Accordingly, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Salvo.

Claims 2-8 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-8 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-8 likewise are patentable over Salvo.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-8 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



William J. Zychlewicz  
Registration No. 51,366  
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740  
(314) 621-5070